

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 212189

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHNOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

UNCLAS STATE 212189

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PAGE 02 STATE 212189

COMDT COGARD FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT: OCT. 26, 1973 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SCHANBERG (NYT) FROM PP DESCRIBES DEPARTURE OF ALMOST ENTIRE SOVIET EMBASSY STAFF VIA SPECIAL AEROFLOT FLIGHT, LEAVING 3 LOW-LEVEL AIDES AND COUPLE OF TASS CORRESPONDENTS BEHIND. THESE WILL HAVE RUN OF EXTENSIVE EMBASSY FACILITIES BUT LACK DIPLOMATIC STATUS. SOVIET DEPARTURE WAS RELAXED AND WITHOUT CEREMONY OR CURIOUS CROWD, ATTENDED BY GKR FONMIN PROTOCOL OFFICIALS AND E. GERMAN, POLISH, CZECH AND INDIAN DIPLOMATS. EVENT MARKS DRASTIC SCALING-DOWN OF MOSCOW-PP RELATIONS BUT NOT BREAK. E. GERMANS INTEND FOLLOW USSR EXAMPLE IN EARLY NOV., LEAVING 1 MAN BEHIND. POLES AND CZECHS IN RECENT MONTHS REDUCED EMBASSIES TO 2 DIPLOMATS EACH, SO MAY LEAVE STAFFS UNCHANGED THOUGH PLANS NOT CLEAR. USSR WITHDRAWAL PRESAGED IN OCT. 9 NOTE DELIVERED TO SIHANOUK AT PEKING IN WHICH PRINCE WAS REFERRED TO AS "HEAD OF STATE" AND GRUNK AS "SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA" - SHORT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION, BUT NOT TOO FAR SHORT. PP DIPLOMATS FEEL RECENT SOVIET ACTION DUE TO SEVERAL FACTORS INCLUDING SIHANOUK'S CONSTANT CRITICISM OF USSR FOR HAVING EMBASSY TO GKR, DESIRE OF SOVIETS TO GET IN STEP WITH NON-ALIGNED NATIONS

THAT FIRMLY BACK PRINCE, BELIEF THAT KI WILL EVENTUALLY WIN, AND DESIRE TO PREVENT PRC FROM WINNING DOMINANT ROLE IN CAMBODIA BY DEFAULT. NEXT STEP MAY COME IN UN ACTION ON PROPOSAL TO OUST GKR AND SEAT GRUNK. MANY DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS THINK PROPOSAL, SPONSORED BY PRC AND 30 OTHERS, HAS CHANCE ON SIMPLE GA MAJORITY BUT WOULD PROBABLY FAIL IF GKR SUPPORTERS MANAGE TO MAKE ISSUE "IMPORTANT QUESTION".

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 212189

2. AP (SUN) QUOTES WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN PP THAT 4 NVA DIVISIONS (ESTIMATED 6-7,000 MEN EACH) APPEAR TO HAVE MOVED FROM CAMBODIA INTO SVN FOR POSSIBLE ATTACKS IN DELTA AND SAIGON AREAS. 5TH NVA DIV. CROSSED TO REGION NORTH OF TAY NINH; 6TH DIV. WENT TO APPROACHES TO SAIGON AND DELTA; 7TH AND 9TH DIVS. MOVED ACROSS SE CAMBODIA AND "DISAPPEARED OFF CAMBODIAN MAP". SOURCES SAY APPARENT WITHDRAWAL WOULD LEAVE 2 NVA/VC DIVISIONS IN CAMBODIA WITH NO NVA TROOPS IN PP AREA, AND THAT INFORMATION ON MOVEMENTS PROBABLY LARGELY BASED ON US AIR RECON DATA PROVIDED TO FANK. SOME SPECULATE MOVEMENT IS TO REINFORCE NVA IN SVN, OTHERS THAT NVN IS COMPLYING WITH PARIS ACCORD PROVISIONS NOW THAT KI CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

3. ROUTE 4 TO KOMPONG SOM, CLEARED OCT. 19, REPORTED TO BE "INSECURE" 45 MILES WEST OF PP BUT REMAINS OPEN. ROUTE 5 TO BATTAMBANG REMAINS CLOSED FOR 49TH DAY (AP, SUN). CSM REPORTS FROM PP THAT AMEMBASSY HAS STARTED COMPUTERIZED FANK PAYROLL SYSTEM TO STOP COMMANDERS FROM POCKETING SALARIES OF "PHANTOM SOLDIERS", AND ADDS THAT US TAXPAYERS HAVE BEEN PAYING FANK SALARIES FOR 3-1/2 YEARS.

4. EX-OFFICIALS CHARGE US CORRUPTION IN LAOS. SIMPSON (AP) REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT HOWARD MUSHETT, FORMER AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE SECURITY CHIEF, TOLD HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE THURSDAY THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF US EXCESS PROPERTY WERE TRADED TO CONTRACTORS IN LAOS FOR SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EMBASSY RESIDENCE. AMBASSADOR GODLEY, IN LAOS FROM 1970 TO 1973, CALLS ALLEGATIONS "GROSS EXAGGERATIONS", DENIES PERSONAL GAIN OR KNOWLEDGE OF PERSONAL GAIN BY ASSOCIATES. MUSHETT ALSO ACCUSED FORMER AMEMBASSY ADMIN. COUNSELOR ROBINSON OF DISPOSING OF EQUIPMENT AND POCKETING PROFITS. MUSHETT ESTIMATED THAT ALMOST 8 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF SURPLUS REQUISITIONED OSTENSIBLY FOR FAR, BUT MUCH STOLEN OR DETERIORATED AFTER ARRIVAL IN LAOS; SAID 70,000 DOLLARS IN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 212189

IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING TENNIS COURTS AND 40,000 DOLLAR POOL, MADE TO EMBASSY RESIDENCE AND PAID BY BARTER. SAID HE REPORTED EVENTS TO GODLEY BUT NOTHING DONE. GODLEY, WHO WILL TESTIFY NOV. 1, SAYSPPOOL COST 15,000 DOLLARS AND CONTENTS THAT IMPROVEMENTS WERE NEEDED. SUN (AP) ADDS THAT RETIRED COL. RALPH NEWMAN, FORMER CHIEF OF AID REQUIRMENTS OFFICE IN VIENTIANE, IN TESTIFYING ALSO ABOUT ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTS SAID HE WAS FORCED OUT OF AID FOR TRYING TO STOP THEM, AND THAT DOS WHITEWASHED REPORTS HE MADE. SUN GIVES ESTIMATE OF VALUE OF EXCESS AS 6 MILLION DOLLARS FROM SVN AND 12 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THAILAND. WILLENSON (UPI, WP) ALSO REPORTS STORY, NOTING GODLEY DENIAL OF CHARGES BUT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT GAO AND AID INVESTIGATORS HAD CONCLUDED THAT INSTANCES OF NOT FOLLOWING REGULATIONS TO LETTER TOOK PLACE. WILLENSON QUOTES MUSHETT THAT EXCESS WAS BARTERED TO PAY FOR 110,000 DOLLARS IN EMBASSY RESIDENCE IMPROVEMENTS AND FOR PERSONAL PROFIT, THAT INDIAN ICC BILLET WAS RECONSTRUCTED, AND THAT OTHER US OFFICIALS WERE INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CURRENCY MANIPULATION, DIVERTING FUNDS, FUEL AND SPARE PARTS, USING US CHOPPERS FOR HUNTING TRIPS, AND DRINKING ON JOB. WILLENSON ADDS THAT

NEWMAN CHARGED US OFFICIALS IGNORED THEFTS OF AVGAS BY LAO AF, SOME OF WHICH WAS SOLD TO NVA, AND THAT DOS SOURCES SAID IT IS UNTRUE THAT AMEMBASSY "ACQUIESCED" IN SUCH TRANSACTIONS.

5. THIEU SHAKES UP TOP ARVN COMMANDS TO INCREASE PREPAREDNESS IN CASE OF VC/NVA OFFENSIVE NEXT YEAR; MOVE FOLLOWS CABINET SHUFFLE (REUTER).

6. COMMUNIST TROOPS HARASS 7,000-MAN ARVN COLUMN IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AFTER ROUTING FLANKING BATTALION. REDS BLOW BRIDGE SPANS ON HWAY 1 IN PHU YEN PROVINCE IN ATTEMPT DISRUPT COMMUNICATIONS. TRAFFIC ON HWAY 1 BETWEEN HUE AND BINH DINH STOPPED BY FLOODS; 107 C-F VIOLATIONS IN PAST DAY REPORTED BY GVN (REUTER).

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 212189

7. UPI (NYDN) REPORTS FROM BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINE GOVT. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT HAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WITH DRV. PERONIST GOVT. HAD EARLIER AGREED TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH DPRK AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

JAPAN

8. OHIRA TELLS FRIDAY NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HAK WILL VISIT JAPAN NOV. 14-15, AFTER GOING TO CHINA (REUTER).

9. REUTER'S MORITA, IN TOKYO, OBSERVES THAT AS WORLD-WIDE ANXIETY MOUNTS OVER AVAILABILITY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, GOJ IS TURNING TOWARDS RELATIVELY UNTAPPED LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN IN SEARCH FOR STABLE, LONG-TERM SUPPLIES. ANOTHER FACTOR PROMPTING JAPAN TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA IS PRESENCE OF NEARLY 800,000 JAPANESE EMIGRANTS THERE.

10. CULLISON (JOC), IN TOKYO, REPORTS THAT AFTER ONLY 3 DAYS OF SPORADIC STRIKE ACTION AT 7 MAJOR PORTS, LOCAL UNION LONGSHOREMEN "HAVE JUST ABOUT RUINED THEIR NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' PLAN" FOR CONTINUATION OF STRIKE PROGRAM THAT "SHOULD HAVE SEEN ALL DOCKERS AGAIN REFUSING TO HANDLE CARGO AFTER 5:30 PM FRIDAY." NOW APPARENT THAT LOCAL UNION MEMBERS "WERE ONLY BEING HALF-HEARTED AT BEST IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CARRY OUT" NATIONAL UNION'S DIRECTIVES.

11. TOYOTA, NISSAN AND MAZDA BOOST 1974 AUTO PRICES IN US; CURRENCY REVALUATIONS, HIGHER COSTS CITED (WSJ).

12. CARRIER CORP. ANNOUNCES IT IS BUILDING AIR
CONDITIONER PLANT IN TSUYAMA, WITH PRODUCTION EXPECTED
TO BEGIN NEXT MARCH (WSJ).

CHINA

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 212189

13. CSM'S ROSENTHAL POINTS OUT THAT FEW WOMEN HOLD
HIGH UN POSTS. AMONG 135 DELEGATIONS, PRC BOASTS
WORKING COUPLE -- HUANG HUA IS CHAIRMAN OF DELEGATION
AND MADAME HUANG IS COUNSELOR AND SPECIALIZES IN
LEGAL MATTERS. ARTICLE CARRIES PHOTO OF MADAME
HUANG.

KOREA

14. ROK CIA ANNOUNCES IT HAS CRACKED DOWN ON NETHERLANDS-
BASED ESPIONAGE RING FOR DPRK THAT INVOLVED 54 S.
KOREANS, MOST OF WHOM HAD STUDIED IN EUROPE AND
RETURNED HOME. TWO OPERATIVES REPORTED UNDER ARREST,
3 MEMBERS OF RING STILL AT LARGE IN EUROPE (NYT).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

15. FROM PP, LAT'S LESLIE (OCT. 25) REPORTS BELIEF
OF DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS THAT LATEST GKR RESHUFFLE,
WHICH INCLUDES CONTINUATION OF HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND
REACTIVATION OF PARLIAMENT, IS DESIGNED TO PLACATE THOSE
DISGRUNTEED WITH LON NOL RULE WHILE LEAVING LON NOL'S
POWER INTACT. ONE FOREIGN DIPLOMAT CONSIDERS THE
RESHUFFLE "A NICE GOVERNMENT OF COMPROMISE," BUT CAN'T
SEE HOW IT CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE AS LON NOL ASSERTS.
SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF COMPROMISE INVOLVE: RESTORING
TO PARLIAMENTARIANS A FORMAL ROLE IN GOVERNMENT;
CREATION OF THREE NEW "VICE PRIME MINISTERS" - EACH
CHOSEN TO REPRESENT A PARTICULAR FACTION - TO SERVE AS
LIAISON BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND 25 OTHER CABINET
MINISTERS; AND GIVING PRIME MINISTER IN TAM, WHOSE DISSAT-
ISFACTIONS ARE WELL-KNOWN, THE ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT IN-
TERIOR PORTFOLIO. LESLIE COMMENTS THAT MAINTAINING FACADE
OF A UNITED FRONT NOW SEEMS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO GKR,
SINCE CRUCIAL UNGA VOTE IS EXPECTED SOON.

16. IN VIENTIANE, SUN'S SEIDEN INTERVIEWS NEARLY TWO
DOZEN PEOPLE AT RANDOM TO ELICIT REACTION TO ENTRY
OF 385 PL TROOPS - FIRST OF 1,500 - IN LAO CAPITAL CITY
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RLG-PL AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST MONTH.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 212189

SAYS CITY GREETED PL LIKE "ESTRANGED LOVER." ON THE SURFACE THE RECEPTION WAS CAUTIOUS AND SHY; UNDERNEATH, HOWEVER, WHATEVER BITTERNESS REMAINED WAS OVERSHADOWED BY GOODWILL AND HOPE. ONLY ONE INTERVIEWED SAID HE DISTRUSTED THE PL, SAYING HE WAS AFRAID THE PL MIGHT START FIGHTING AGAIN ONCE THEY HAD A FULL BATTALION IN THE CITY.

17. CSM REFERS TO POORLY ATTENDED TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY AT NEW YORK WHERE MRS. VIRGINIA WEST OF NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES COMMENTED ON GENERAL APATHY THAT SEEMS TO HAVE SETTLED ON MIA QUESTION: "IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS TO FORGET OUR N MISSING IN ACTION . . . I ASSURE YOU THERE IS ONE MOTHER WHO WILL NOT GIVE UP, AND THERE ARE 1,300 JUST LIKE ME." EDITORIAL EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LEAGUE'S EFFORTS SHOULD BE FULLY SUPPORTED UNTIL ALL MIAS ARE FOUND OR ACCOUNTED FOR.

18. VINCENT MATTHEWS (SUN) IN CANBERRA NOTES THAT WHITLAM SENT CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM TO AUSTRALIAN NOVELIST PATRICK WHITE ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE. NOTES ALSO THAT WHITE IS FAR MORE WIDELY READ AND ADMIRER OVERSEAS THAN IN AUSTRALIA.

ATTRIBUTES WHITE'S RELATIVE OBSCURITY IN HIS OWN COUNTRY TO THE TRADITIONAL IMAGE OF AUSTRALIA AS AN AGGRESSIVELY ANTI-INTELLECTUAL SOCIETY, OBSESSED WITH PHYSICAL PLEASURES, ABSORBING SUN BUT REJECTING IDEAS - AN IMAGE FEW AUSTRALIANS WOULD SEEK ACTIVELY TO REJECT. KISSINGER

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